

3/5/81

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01
IO-14 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-06 PM-09 PA-01
INRE-00 ICAE-00 SP-02 SPRS-02 /077 W

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O R 051936Z MAR 81
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8699
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 1559

E.O. 12065: GDS 3/5/87 (FRIEDMAN, TOWNSEND B.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJECT: ARREST OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 1514

1. (U) JUDGE ANZOATEGUI INDIVIDUALLY QUESTIONED THE SIX
DETAINED HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS MARCH 4. THE DETAINEES
WERE ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR DEFENSE LAWYERS BUT THE PRO-
CEEDINGS WERE CONFIDENTIAL. THEY ARE NO LONGER BEING HELD
INCOMMUNICADO AND FAMILY MEMBERS SPOKE TO EACH DETAINEE
EXCEPT DR. JOSE WESTERKAMP (HIS WIFE WAS UNABLE TO BE AT
THE JAIL BECAUSE SHE WAS VISITING HER SON WHO IS A PEN
DETAINEE SINCE 1975).

2. (U) THE PRESS REPORTS THAT DETAINEES ARE BEING CHARGED
UNDER ARTICLE 224 OF THE PENAL CODE WHICH PROVIDES FOR
THE PUNISHMENT OF UNAUTHORIZED POSSESSION OF THE PLANS
OF MILITARY FACILITIES. FAMILY MEMBERS STATE THAT
WHILE THEY DO NOT KNOW THE PRECISE NATURE OF THE
CHARGES YET, JUDGE ANZOATEGUI'S COMMENTS DURING THE
INITIAL QUESTIONING SUGGEST THAT THESE REPORTS ARE
ACCURATE. REPORTEDLY, INFRACTIONS OF THIS NATURE ARE

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PUNISHABLE BY SENTENCES OF FROM 6 MONTHS TO TWO YEARS.

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3. (U) ACCORDING TO THE PRESS AND FAMILY MEMBERS, JUDGE ANZOATEGUI STATED TO THE DETAINEES DURING THEIR INTERROGATIONS THAT THE CHARGES ON WHICH THEY WERE BEING HELD ALLOWED FOR KEEPING THEM IN PREVENTIVE DETENTION OR FREEING THEM WHILE THE PROCEEDINGS CONTINUE. HE REPORTEDLY STATED THAT HIS DECISION ON WHETHER HE WOULD FREE THE PRISONERS OR HOLD THEM WOULD BE TAKEN NO LATER THAN NEXT MONDAY.

4. [REDACTED] COMMENT: CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT THE DETAINEES ALLEGEDLY ALSO POSSESSED INFORMATION ABOUT MILITARY AND SECURITY PERSONNEL. THUS FAR, HOWEVER, THIS ASPECT OF THE CASE HAS NOT BEEN MADE CLEAR TO THE DETAINEES, OR SO THE COMMENTS OF THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS TO US WOULD SUGGEST.
SHLAUDEMAN

[REDACTED]
NVVZCZ

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